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The Return of Peace.

The war is over. In this we greatly rejoice. Our views in regard to the war have been fully expressed in previous numbers of this paper. It is needless to repeat them. We have seen nothing to induce us to modify them in the least, and we believe the judgment of impartial history hereafter will fully sustain them. However that may be, the war has now passed into history, and nothing can be done in regard to it but to try to prevent the evil results threatening to come out of it. In common with others, we shall sincerely rejoice over whatever measure of real freedom and promise of improvement shall come to the populations which the war has severed from the control of Spain. But we cannot think of the awful scenes produced by our warships among the two Spanish fleets destroyed, or of the dreadful slaughter, death by disease, and starvation and suffering about Santiago de Cuba, without feeling that whatever good has been attained ought to have been attained otherwise, that war is forever-

more the same monstrous and inhuman thing which we do not see how any motive or combination of motives can justify in this enlightened age.

The Washington correspondents represent that, when the peace protocol was signed on August twelfth, President McKinley, Secretary Day and the other representatives of the Administration present, relieved of the immense burden which the war had compelled them to bear, "were radiant with a happiness which the stormy weather could not affect." We can well believe it. Practically the whole nation feels the same relief, and there is profound gratitude everywhere. As the war went on, and the national debt piled up with frightful rapidity, and the appalling condition of things about Santiago became known, the spirit of the people settled into deeper and deeper distress, and there was earnest longing for the end of the war. The spirit of the men who forced the war upon us became much sobered, when they saw that it was not as fine a political job as they had expected. The reaction among the people was very strong when the seriousness of the war became apparent, and the real character of the Cubans cropped out. We hope that this reaction has been strong enough to cure the country of the detestable spirit of jingoism which was so widely prevailing.

The cause of peace probably never before had so many real friends in the nation as to-day, however many apparent friends may have proved untrue. Its earnest and active advocates before the war have only been strengthened in their convictions by recent events, and made more determined to carry on an active and ceaseless propaganda. The war has aroused many others to a sense of their unfaithfulness in the past and to a purpose to work faithfully in the future. We doubt if the essentially pacific spirit of the nation has on the whole been seriously affected, as was at one time threatened.

We are thus encouraged to hope that the two evils most to be dreaded from the war may be measurably prevented, that is, the militarization of the country and the adoption of what has been called "imperialism." The danger in both these directions is, however, great, and it will take the combined and immediate efforts of all those who wish to see the national character remain as in the past, to prevent the country from going much further astray than it has already done. The swift victories of the navy have awakened the old passion of military glory, and the enlargement of both army and navy consequent upon the war will make it most difficult to keep either within the limits heretofore maintained or any other reasonable limits. There will be a determined effort to bring about generally much greater preparation for war, after the European models. The tendency of all this is plain to see, and neither voice nor pen should be spared to try to counteract it. The masses of the people who are not much accustomed to make themselves heard on public questions, though they constitute the real life and worth of the nation, have it within their power to save the country at the present time, if they will only arouse themselves to do their duty.

The danger in the directions indicated is greatly increased by the annexation proposed of considerable of the territory wrested from Spain by the war. Even if the Philippines should be entirely left out, the danger will only be lessened. Porto Rico and the other Spanish West India islands, if annexed, will have to be governed for a time at least by military occupation. This means a larger army and more warships. Hawaii has already been annexed, and one of the first things done was to send thither a warship and a regiment of soldiers. It is announced that the building of three new battleships will be recommended to Congress when it meets next winter. Thus territorial expansion and military and naval development will go hand in hand. To what extent the militarization shall go, will depend upon the faithfulness of the people in holding the government authorities to the fundamental national ideals, on which our real glory and influence have so far rested. The growth of the navy and army will incline to go much beyond the territorial expansion resulting from the war. The party advocating this will be alert and active, and will have to be met at Washington with a ceaseless inflow of opposing influence.

Not only in meeting directly these dangerous tendencies will the friends of peace have an imperative duty to perform. They must push their cause on its positive side without delay. Every mail that goes into Washington ought to carry letters urging the immediate revival of the Anglo-American arbitration treaty. The time is highly favorable for this, and the opportune moment must not be allowed to pass by unimproved. Then, all other lines of work for arbitration and peace must be followed up with increased earnestness. There is a large amount of public opinion favorable in a general way to peace but not yet rid of false notions about war. This must be won over to the right side. The friends of peace never had larger opportunities or larger responsibilities than at the present critical moment in our national life. The forces of evil abound; the forces of good must much more abound.

Battleships and Universities.

At the Alumni dinner at Harvard University, on the 29th of June, some remarks were made by President Eliot, in reference to the war with Spain, which surprised a good many persons present and a still larger number who read them in the papers. These remarks seemed so out of harmony with the teachings of the President of Harvard just before the war and particularly in his address at the Washington Arbitration Conference of April, 1896.

"The educated youth, who loves his country, does not stop to consider in what precise cause his country has gone to war. If he did, he could not find out."

If this sentence, which constituted the basis of one section of the speech, means anything, it means that true patriotism is blind and unreasoning, and asks no questions, when the government authorities decide upon a war, either as to its cause or what its results are likely to be. No doctrine could be more pernicious than this. It is exactly the same sentiment as that of Emperor William when he talks about "iron blind obedience." "My country, right or wrong," in its worst possible interpretation, is not a mite worse. One would think that an educated youth, of all others, would be just the one to know, and that he would be advised by the President of Harvard University to know, why his country goes to war; and that he would be the last youth in the nation to fling himself blindly down at his country's feet, right or wrong, "just as a lover throws a rose at the feet of his mistress." That, unfortunately, is the sort of patriotism which has always prevailed in the world, and it is the chief support of the cruel and irrational militarism of the present day.